



The 49th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Program

PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF
ALEXANDRIA AND
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING
JR. MEMORIAL PLANNING
COMMITTEE



2022 Theme

**IT STARTS WITH ME:
SHIFTING PRIORITIES TO
CREATE THE BELOVED
COMMUNITY**

Program

Mistress of Ceremonies

Community Leaders

Program Participants

Host Church

Alexandria Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
Planning Committee



"IT STARTS WITH ME"

Lift Every Voice and Sing Performed by Victoria Vinson
Welcome, Mistress of Ceremonies Samia Byrd
Greetings, Senator Mark R. Warner
Opening Remarks, Mayor Justin M. Wilson

The Program

"WHAT IS YOUR LIFE'S BLUEPRINT?"

Musical Selection, Alexandria City High School Orchestra
Call to Action, Councilwoman Del Pepper
Powerful Orations, Local Youth
Liturgical Performance by Jocelyne Scott

"WE SHALL OVERCOME"

Civil Rights Accomplishments in Recent Times
Closing Remarks, City Manager Mark Jinks and
Alexandria Living Legend Rosa Byrd
Choral Reprise, We Shall Overcome

In Memoriam, Lynn Nelson

THE COMMITTEE DEDICATES THIS YEAR'S COMMEMORATION TO
THE MEMORY OF OUR DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBER



Lynn Joan Nelson was born on November 16, 1966, in Alexandria, VA. She gained her Angelic wings on October 30, 2021.

Lynn remained a loyal member of the City of Alexandria's Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial Planning Committee despite health challenges. Lynn's Life's Blueprint was to become a great activist following the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mistress of Ceremonies

S A M I A B Y R D

A Deputy County Manager in Arlington County, Virginia was appointed Chief Race and Equity Officer in July 2020, leading the County's work to advance racial equity both internal and external to the organization. She joined Arlington County as a Principal Planner in the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development in 2007 and was promoted to Deputy County Manager in 2017 to advise on land use policy, development and planning and serve as liaison to the County Board on their meetings and agendas.

Prior to joining the County, Mrs. Byrd served for eight years with Quadel Consulting, a firm specializing in affordable housing management. She has significant experience working with Public and Indian Housing completing organizational assessments and troubled agency recovery plans, strategic plans, revitalization plans and on-site management, serving as an on-site manager in Baltimore, Maryland and for the Disaster Voucher Program for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development after hurricanes Rita and Katrina. She has also served as Director of State Fiscal Analysis and Policy for the National Council of Nonprofit Associations, a Research Associate with the Urban Land Institute, and an Information Specialist for Community Connections at Aspen Systems Corporation, previously contracted to HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development. In these various roles she gained experience in understanding impacts of tax policy on low income and vulnerable populations, neighborhood and community economic development programs, and real estate development markets and trends.

Mrs. Byrd holds a bachelor's and master's degree in City Planning from the University of Virginia and Georgia Tech. She received a Certification in Strategic Management Performance Systems (SMPS) in 2020 and a Certification of Public Management (CPM) in 2012, both from The George Washington University, Center for Excellence in Public Leadership. Mrs. Byrd is currently a participant in the Leadership Center for Excellence, 2021-22 Leadership Arlington cohort. She is a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and is an alumnus of the ULI Regional Land Use Leadership Program. She currently serves on the ULI-Washington Urban Plan Steering Committee; Diversity and Inclusion Working Group; and participated in ULI-Washington's Pathways to Inclusion Program in 2019.

Mrs. Byrd also serves on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Planning Committee in Alexandria and is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Mrs. Byrd enjoys dance and has served as a minister of dance and director of the liturgical dance ministry at Shiloh Baptist Church of Alexandria, Virginia from 2009 to 2019. She and her husband, Steven live in Northern Virginia with their two children.

Alexandria Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
Planning Committee



Honorable Mark R. Warner

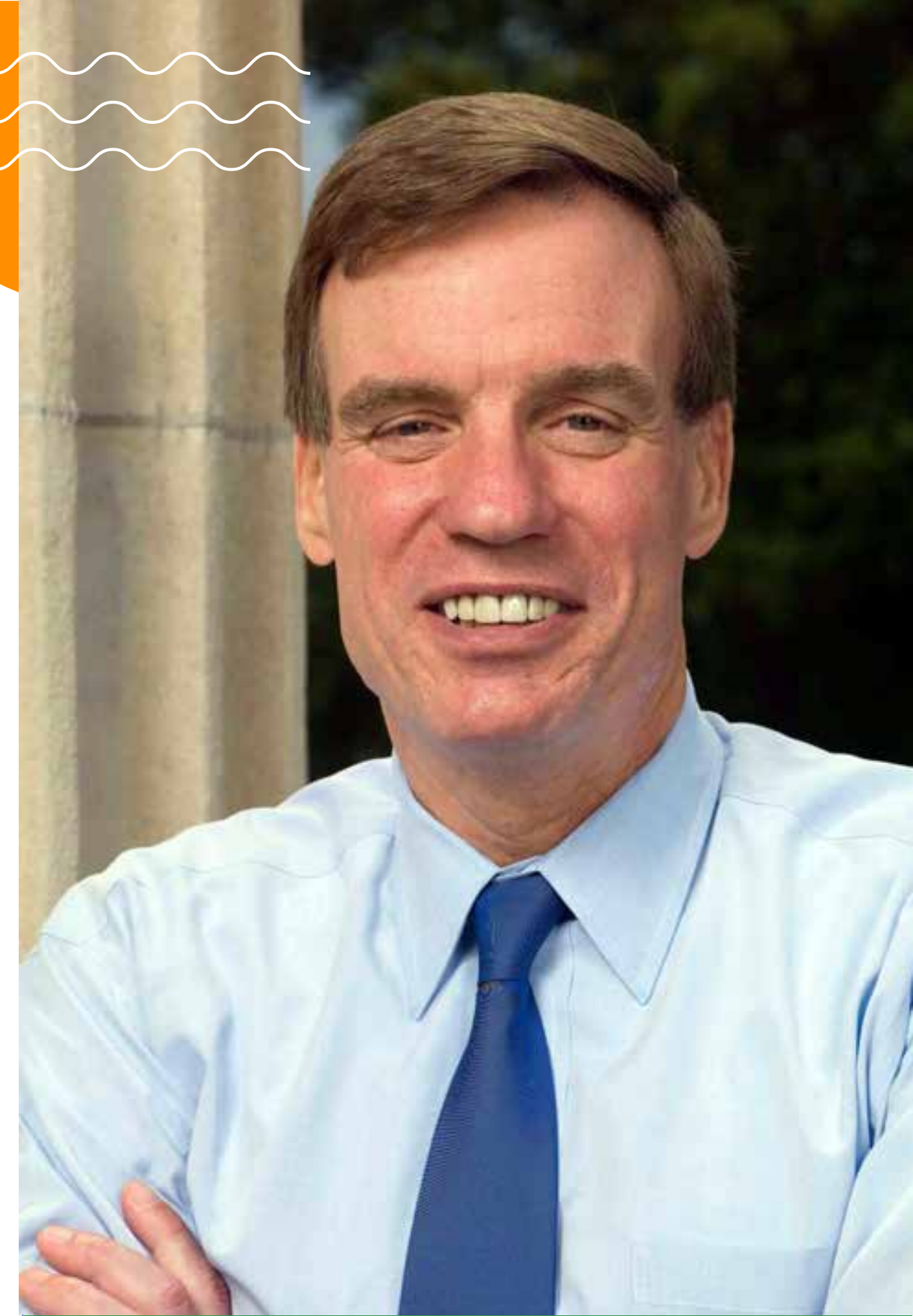
Senator Warner was elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2008 and reelected to a third term in November 2020. He serves on the Senate Finance, Banking, Budget, and Rules Committees as well as the Select Committee on Intelligence, where he is the Chairman. During his time in the Senate, Senator Warner has established himself as a bipartisan leader who works across the aisle to ensure that Virginians are able to count on their government when they need it the most.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Senator Warner effectively worked to grease the wheels of Congress, lending his strong support to numerous relief bills and leading negotiations between Democrats and Republicans that resulted in the passage of the December 2020 emergency relief legislation. Senator Warner has also been recognized as a national leader in fighting for families, hardworking Virginians, and our military men and women. He has successfully championed various bipartisan efforts to invest in our nation's infrastructure, create good-paying jobs, address abuses by private military housing companies, boost American competition and innovation, reduce the maintenance backlog at our National Parks, and promote economic equity among historically disadvantaged groups and communities.

From 2002 to 2006, he served as Governor of Virginia. When he left office in 2006, Virginia was ranked as the best state for business, the best-managed state, and the best state in which to receive a public education.

The first in his family to graduate from college, Mark Warner spent 20 years as a successful technology and business leader in Virginia before entering public office. An early investor in the cellular telephone business, he co-founded the company that became Nextel and invested in hundreds of start-up technology companies that created tens of thousands of jobs.

Senator Warner and his wife Lisa Collis live in Alexandria, Virginia. They have three daughters.



Honorable Justin M. Wilson

Alexandria Mayor Justin M. Wilson, now beginning to serve in his second term as Mayor, was first elected Mayor of the City of Alexandria in November of 2018.

An experienced community leader, he previously served for 8 years on the City Council prior to his election as Mayor, including service from 2016–2019 as Alexandria's Vice Mayor. His leadership has led to new investments in schools, transportation and environmental infrastructure. He has worked to expand early childhood education, address growing student enrollment, accelerate economic growth, advance climate policy as well as protecting and expanding housing affordability.

Prior to his election to the City Council, he served as the Chair of the Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors, which operates the City's DASH bus service, and served on the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee.

Within the City, he leads the City-Schools Subcommittee, the ARHA Redevelopment Committee, the Quality of Life Committee, Legislative Subcommittee, the Audit Committee, the Employee Pension/Compensation Committee, the Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Advisory Group and the Combined Sewer Outfall Project Review Team Workgroup.

Justin is employed by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) as a Senior Director.

An avid runner, Justin has completed eight marathons, and he lives in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria with his wife, Alex, a life-long Alexandrian, and their son, Eli and daughter Lena, both Alexandria City Public School students.



Councilwoman Del Pepper

Del Pepper was first elected to the City Council in 1985. She served as Vice Mayor from 1996 to 1997, from 2003 to 2006, and from 2007 to 2009. Pepper co-chairs the Beauregard Street Corridor Task Force, the Alexandria-Arlington Task Force on the Waste-To-Energy Plant and the Welfare Reform Committee (Alexandria Works!). She is active with the Commission on Aging, Commission on Information Technology, Facilities Naming Committee, and the Council of Governments Air Quality Committee and Board of Directors.

She was recently elected Corporate President of the COG. She is a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, where she also chairs the Regional Resources Committee.

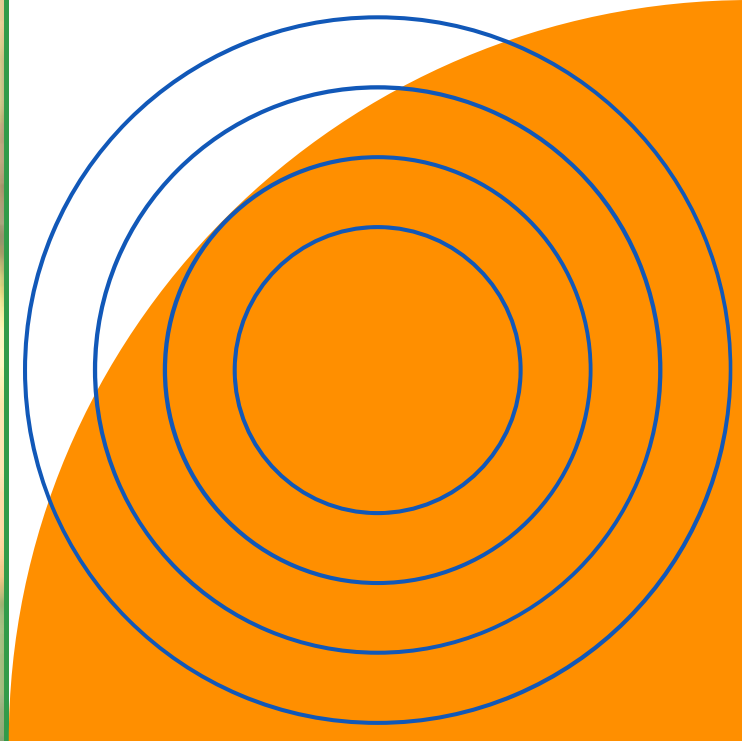
Councilwoman Pepper serves on the Boards of the YMCA, the T.C. Williams PTSA, the Alexandria Arts Forum, Bienvenidos, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She is a former first vice president of the local NAACP and former board member of the City's Community Services Board. Other affiliations include the Urban League, the League of Women Voters, and the Sierra Club.

She is a recipient of the Jaycees Appreciation Award, the Council of Senior Citizens Organization's Outstanding Women of Alexandria Award, and the Commission for Women's Living Legend Award. Pepper is a Grinnell College graduate. A resident of the City's west end, she and her husband, Dr. F.J. Pepper, have one son.

Alexandria Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
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Program Participants



Victoria Vinson, Soloist
Alexandria City High School, Orchestra
Mila Garcia, Orator
Elijah Byrd, Orator
Christina Vinson, Orator
Isaiah Sellers, Orator
Jocelynn Scott, Liturgical Dancer

**Our lives begin to end the day we become silent
about things that matter.**

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Alexandria City High School Orchestra



- Alexandria City High School hosts three string orchestras:
- Chamber Orchestra: Grades 10 - 12 with music focus on levels 5-6
 - String Orchestra: Grades 10 - 12 with a music focus on levels 4-5
 - Minnie Howard Orchestra: Grade 9 with a music focus on levels 3-4

Directed by Veronica Jackson, award winning Orchestra Director (left)



A portrait of Victoria Vinson, a Black woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink top. She has her eyes closed and a serene expression. The portrait is partially obscured by a green circular shape in the top left and an orange circular shape in the bottom right. There are also blue concentric circles in the bottom left corner.

Victoria Vinson

I describe myself as a multi-hyphenate of music.
I sing, write, compose, DJ, all things music
related.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is powerful to me. Dr.
King always demonstrated power and poise.
Everyone respected him, and those who
opposed him, couldn't deny that he was an
upstanding man with a gift.



Mila Garcia

I always wanted to be a veterinarian but now I don't know yet, there are so many great jobs out there!

When I am not at school, I like to play with my friends and my new puppy. I also enjoy cheer, gymnastics, writing, singing, and dancing.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is important to me because I like that he stood up for people. I feel that everyone should have the same rights to do, anything really.

A portrait of Christina Vinson, a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a black turtleneck. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The portrait is partially framed by a green circular shape on the left and an orange shape at the bottom.

Christina Vinson

Acting is a passion of mine. I look forward to being a full time actress as a career. When I am not acting or working, I love to listen to music, take long walks and spend time with friends.

I am honored to have a special part in the program this year honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King. His legacy means a lot.

Elijah Byrd

When I graduate high school I'd like to become a digital artist working in graphic design for game industries/production. I enjoy making digital art with my computer, playing and analyzing video games, creating intricate figurines, and chatting with friends.

Martin Luther King day is important to me because it is a day to reflect on all that the black community has come through. Year-long we experience strife and discrimination, and yet, on one day we can reminisce on what has been brought up of it, a symbol of hope that if one man can truly change the hearts, minds, and negative ideals of people then we are able to do anything.

I also believe him to be an inspiration for other movements even outside of the black community as such in the Hispanic, Asian, or even the LGBTQ+ community. They are able to see how far we've come and use it as a lighthouse on which they may find their way to the TRUE equality they so rightfully deserve. In the end, I would like to truly see racism and discrimination in the permanent past tense as well as in a positive connotation to say that it's over and we can breathe sighs of relief not just as a race or group but as a species.

Isaiah Sellers

When I graduate from University, I aspire to own my own marketing firm. What many would be surprised to know about me is that I am a registered yoga instructor.

When I think of Dr. King and his legacy, I think we are honoring a courageous strong black man who stood up to things he didn't like and spoke about his issues ever so peacefully. I am honored to orate one of his works.

Jocelynnne Scott

Something that I want to be when I grow up, is a baker. I love to cook and bake and find it enjoyable. A fun fact about me is that I once participated in an Opera in 6th grade with my school.

To me, Dr. King's work is inspiring. Even though some people didn't believe in what Dr. King was doing, he continued to fight for unity and equal rights for all. Though that fight still continues, the progress Dr. King, and others like him, made is visible. That is why I think Dr. King's legacy is important.



Host Church =

This year's program was hosted by Third Baptist Church in Old Town Alexandria. The Committee thanks Pastor James Jordan and the Third Baptist Church family for accommodating us.

For more information on Third Baptist Church, visit them at thirdbaptistalexva.org



The Work Continues

Special thanks to (Senator Warner, (Bo Machayo), Mayor Wilson, (Mark McHugh), Councilwoman Pepper (Tracy Thompson), City Manager Jinks (Sermaine McLean), Gretchen Bulova, Audrey Davis, and Barbara Magid.

A Very Special thanks to Justin Thompson, Cheryl Anne Colton, Pastor James Jordan and Third Baptist Church, Briclyn Entertainment and our local youth participants...we couldn't have done this without you!